

"Am dat what you done; 'an wharfore you brung 'em tow me?"

"Going to set them Uncle Pete and hatch some of those big white chickens that always win at the shows."

"Um, huh! 'An' yo' done brung tow me knowin' my ol' Blackie just been set; now, what foh we gwine do wid dem aigs she been settin' on?"

"Oh, uncle Pete, I'll sell papers and pay you for those eggs; sure I will," begged Sam.

"Yo' gwien tow sell papers and pay Unc. Pete mean 'nuff foh dat an' yo' Pa way off in de Phillepines fightin' dem Span-yards? Yo' tink Unc. Pete mean 'nuff tow charge yo' for hatchin' some aigs? No, sah! Ol' Blackie gwien tow git huh aigs changed townight, sho."

In due time old Blackie became the mother of two little fluffie balls of white. Uncle Pete excitedly called Sam to the wood-shed to see them. When the chicks were a few days old, the smaller one drooped and died. The remaining chick received all of the hen's attention and as the weather grew milder, he grew very rapidly. In patriotic pride, Sam had named the chick Roosevelt, but little brother Bob had insisted the name was "Rooster-felt" and Rooster-felt it remained.

By autumn, Roosterfelt had developed into a beautiful bird and it would have been hard to say which admired him the more, Sam or Uncle Pete. "Dat fellow sho gwien tow be a shobird, Sammie," Uncle Pete would say. "When Father comes home, won't he be proud if I win the first prize," Sam would say.

But one day dreadful news came to the little home. The name of Private Woods appeared upon the records of the Nation's dead, and Sam would never see his father again. The child's grief was hardly less pitiful than that of the white haired old darkey. "Unc Pete gwine tow be good to dat boy, sho now; Unc Pete all de Pa he got left," he mourned.

When the mid-winter show was announced, Uncle Pete went with Sam to the Secretary's office. A new Secretary had been elected and he eyed the two questioningly, but Sam bravely filled out the entry blank and paid the fee.

"Sam," said Uncle Pete on their way home, "we done got to git dat chickin' in de best fix possible if yo'

gwien git dat prize; we got thre weeks to do it and yo' jist watch yo' Unc. Pete."

When they reached home Pete put on a pan of water and while it was heating, got out a couple of tubs and a bucket. One tub was half filled with water as warm as the hand could bear it; another tub was half-filled with lukewarm water and the bucket filled with water nearly cold. Roosterfelt was brought up and plunged into the tub of hot water and thoroughly soaked; then his plumage was rubbed with white soap and scrubbed until perfectly clean; the water was all squeezed from the feathers and the bird dipped into the second tub and thoroughly rinsed; then he was plunged into the bucket of cool water into which a pellet of bluing had been dissolved. When the bird had been well soaked with the blue rinse water Uncle Pete held him up and allowed the water to drip, when the bird was put into a clean coop, in the bottom of which had been spread dry gunny sacks to catch the water. The fire in the stove was kept going and in a few hours Roosterfelt was quite dry. The bird was then transferred to a clean coop in the shed into which had been put plenty of chaff and fresh straw; there was also a little box of grit and a cup of clean, fresh water and the bird was put on an allowance of whole wheat and cracked corn. In four days the bird was again washed in the same manner and this was kept up until a week before the show.

"Dis am de las' wash we gwine give dat fellow," Uncle Pete explained.

After the last wash, when the bird was thoroughly dry, Uncle Pete produced a little box of powdered chalk and proceeded to carefully dust Roosterfelt's feathers. This was kept up every day until the day of the opening, when the bird was placed in a light coop prepared by Uncle Pete which he had covered with muslin to keep out the dust; preparatory to taking him to the show, Uncle Pete had given the feathers a last dusting with chalk, the bird's shanks thoroughly groomed and his comb and wattles washed in a solution of alcohol and water.

When Sam presented himself with the coop at the show he was met by Grumpy Joe, the Hall Manager, who carried the coop with no very good

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